

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 28, 2005 Hearing Room E

1:00 P.M. Tapes 17 - 18

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Linda Flores, Chair

Rep. John Dallum, Vice-Chair

Rep. Steve March, Vice-Chair

Rep. Debi Farr

Rep. John Lim

Rep. Chip Shields

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Carolyn Tomei

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Keller, Committee Administrator

Kellie Whiting, Committee Assistant

MEASURES / ISSUES HEARD:

Oregon Opportunity Grants – Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 17, A		
003	Chair Flores	Calls the meeting to order at 1:01p.m. and opens the informational meeting on Oregon Opportunity Grants.

OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANTS – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

018	Margie Lowe	Executive Director, Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC). Refers to the prepared testimony (EXHIBIT A, Page 1). Describes the mission statement and related benchmarks. Describes the administration of public grants and scholarships.
096	Lowe	Refers to page two and presents the Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility requirements.
104	Vicki Merkel	Director of the Department of Grants and Scholarships, Oregon Student Assistance Commission. Refers to page two and explains the eligibility considerations for Oregon Opportunity Grants.
140	Merkel	Refers to page two and explains the application and award process, annual awards amounts and the duration of awards.
187	Chair Flores	Inquires if the funds are initially distributed to the schools and then distributed to students. Asks about non-citizen eligibility.
197	Merkel	Concurs that funds are distributed to the schools and then to the students. Reads from the 2005-06 scholarship application (EXHIBIT B) to explain the criteria to be considered an eligible non-citizen.
210	Rep. Dallum	Inquires if there is an equalized process in regards to the distribution of scholarships.
217	Merkel	Responds that not all scholarships are accessible, but rather based on merit.
228	Lowe	Explains the criteria for grants and scholarships.

238	Merkel	Explains the duration of the awards and refers to (EXHIBIT A, Page 3) to describe the income thresholds for Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility.
263	Merkel	Refers to page four and reviews the potential types of federal funding. Provides information on four student-based case studies conducted to demonstrate the funding and eligibility for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Federal Pell Grant and Federal Stafford Loans.
335	Rep. Shields	Inquires if there are more scholarship opportunities at the University of Portland than in other public universities.
342	Merkel	Explains it would be depend on the public institution referred to.
349	Brian Clem	Chair, Oregon Student Assistance Commission. Explains how opportunities vary by institution.
370	Merkel	Continues to present the case studies on page five and six.

TAPE 18, A

007	Rep. Dallum	Inquires what the affect would be on grant eligibility, if any of the case studies generated any income during the school year.
015	Merkel	Responds it could affect the eligibility for the following year.
020	Chair Flores	Inquires how the excess funds from tuition are considered.
023	Merkel	Responds that the loans are reduced to the cost of attendance for the institution.
027	Clem	Responds the loans are individualized.
043	Rep. Dallum	Asks if they have figures, showing how much the student is paying out-of-pocket, if they are not meeting the income threshold to be eligible.
051	Lowe	Responds that there are many students that are eligible but are excluded due to limited resources.

071	Rep. Dallum	Inquires about the percentage of students who go into forbearance.
076	Lowe	States they will conduct default rate research and will provide it to the committee.
081	Rep. Roblan	House District 9. States the opportunity grants are for needy students and they make it possible for those students to attend college.
102	Clem	Responds that students can not receive grants alone.
121	Rep. Farr	Reiterates this is an opportunity grant.
126	Lowe	Refers to page seven and demonstrates the amount of applicants and recipients in the different colleges and institutions participating. Refers to the comparison handout (EXHIBIT C) and explains Oregon's grade on participation, preparation and affordability in regards to Oregon's colleges.
185	Rep. March	Comments on the ratio of grant recipients and funds available for private institutions versus public institutions.
200	Clem	Comments the recommendation is to have similar and generally equal amounts.
283	Rep. Lim	Inquires how many years do students have to be a resident of Oregon to qualify for the grants.
291	Merkel	Responds that if they are a dependent or an independent student, they must be a resident for 12 months.
293	Rep. Lim	Inquires if there is preference for minorities in regards to eligibility for opportunity grants.
306	Clem	Responds there is an outreach program to counsel and assist minority high school students so they can receive and access the information regarding opportunities grants. Responds the grant does not factor in race.
328	Rep. Shields	Inquires if there is a federal regulation stating the grants are to be offered in private institutions.

332	Lowe	Responds it is a statutory state requirement.
338	Rep. Farr	Inquires if other states have the same 12-month resident requirement.
343	Clem	Respond he thinks the other states are similar.
348	Merkel	Responds there are various ways other states offer grants and notes they will provide the information to the committee.
362	Chair Flores	Closes the informational meeting on Oregon Opportunity Grants and adjourns the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. Oregon Opportunity Grants, prepared testimony, Margie Lowe, 8 pp**
- B. Oregon Opportunity Grants, 2005-06 scholarship application, Vickie Merkel, 31 pp**
- C. Oregon Opportunity Grants, comparison handout, Margie Lowe, 2 pp**